

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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PARIS ALSO FOR UNESCO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, UN, UNESCO

SUBJ: GOP EMPHASIZES ITS REENTRY INTO GOOD GRACES OF UN

1. PORTUGUESE PRESS IS NOW EXPLOITING ITS THIRD MAJOR OPPORTUNITY TO DRIVE HOME THEME TO PORTUGUESE PUBLIC THAT POST-APRIL 25 REGIME HAS RETURNED TO THE FOLD OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. THE EARLY AUGUST VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, FORMIN MARIO SOARES' MID-SEPTEMBER APPEARANCE BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' CURRENT VISIT TO NEW YORK ARE ALL EVENTS WHICH HAVE ENJOYED MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. COMPLEMENTING THESE MAJOR STORIES, THE PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN PLAYING UP LESS CONSPICUOUS, ROUTINE EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE THEME OF PORTUGAL'S NOW BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN INTER-
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NATIONAL AFFAIRS IN LIEU OF ITS FORMER ROLE OF PARIAH:

A. AN OCTOBER 17 NEWS STORY CONCERNING THE SENDING OF A PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, TO BE HEADED BY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE MAGALHAES GODINHO, STRESSED THAT PORTUGAL WAS RESUMING ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AFTER A "VOLUNTARY" WITHDRAWAL FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES BY THE OLD REGIME, (GOP OFFICIALLY WALKED OUT OF UNESCO IN JULY 1971 IN PROTEST OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OPERATING IN PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES.) ARTICLE STATED THAT PORTUGAL'S RENEWED PARTICIPATION WILL BE TAKING PLACE "WITH THE APPLAUSE OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THOSE MEETINGS."

B. OCT 13-17 VISIT OF DIRECTOR OF UN'S GENEVA INFORMATION SERVICE OFFICE, ERWIN BAUMGARTEN, RECEIVED SIMILAR GOOD COVERAGE. PRESS ARTICLES SPOKE OF HIS VISIT AS A MOVE " TO REINFORCE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE WORLD ORGANIZATION AND PORTUGAL." COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTED BAUMGARTEN'S REMARKS THAT HIS OFFICE FOLLOWS EVENTS IN PORTUGAL CLOSELY VIA THE MEDIUM OF THE PORTUGUESE PRESS, THAT A PUBLICATION ISSUED BIWEEKLY BY HIS GENEVA OFFICE MAY SOON COME OUT IN A PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE EDITION, THAT HE SUGGESTED THE INCLUSION OF MATERIAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IN PORTUGUESE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND THAT THE UN MAY ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION CENTER IN PORTUGAL.
SCOTT

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